

Fish and Aquatic Habitat

Federal, state and local agencies identify and regulate actions that might affect fish and aquatic habitat. The Magnuson-Stevens Act, as amended by the 1996 federal Sustainable Fisheries Act, requires the identification and conservation of habitat that is “essential” to federally managed fish species – i.e., waters and substrate necessary to fish. This law requires federal agencies to consult with NOAA Fisheries on activities that may adversely affect essential fish habitat.

Under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), several species of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout are listed as “threatened.” Under Section 7 of the ESA, consultation may be initiated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the federal action agency. This process will result in avoidance and minimization measures necessary to protect endangered species and habitats.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires permits for discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States, including wetlands. The Washington State Hydraulic Code and county and local ordinances regulate development within critical areas. Recognized Indian Tribes have rights to 50% of the harvestable salmon and to co-manage salmon fisheries in the state.

The maps in this section depict streams and water bodies in the study area. The level of detail is intended to be suitable for a corridor-level environmental review.

DEIS Maps

The DEIS studied all streams within the study area, regardless of fish presence, based on local data sources (King County, 1999). These sources included tabular and geographic information system (GIS) data. In addition, numerous other reports were reviewed to obtain information about basin plans and assessments. The resulting map is “[Streams and Basins](#)” listed under DEIS Maps.

The other map in the DEIS Expertise report, “[Alternative 3 Projects by Basin](#),” contains the same information, with Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the streams-and-basins map.

RS/GIS Maps

The map listed under RS/GIS Maps – “[Streams and Basins](#)” – contains stream network data similar to that used in the DEIS. Lakes are identified from interpreted Landsat-7 imagery. In addition, the locations of dams, fishways, and culverts are identified from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife data.

The map listed under RS/GIS Maps, “[Alternative 3 Projects by Basin](#),” shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the streams-and-basins map.

The third map, “[Land Use and Major Streams in the Study Area](#),” identifies the locations of the major streams that are overlain onto a land use map (described in the Land Use section). This map indicates the spatial proximity of various land uses to these streams.